

Request for Town Council's approval for my application to become the Town's Official Town Crier.

I am aware that since 2021 Broadstairs has not had a Town Crier, following the death of Mr John Myhill , the last and very popular Broadstairs Town Crier.

This year I have been asked by the Dickens Committee to take on the role of Town Crier for the Broadstairs Dickens Festival which will include leading the parade and welcoming townsfolk and visitors to one of our many festivals that take place every year within the town.

I am a native of Thanet having been born in Canterbury many years ago. I returned to the UK in 2013 having lived in the south of France for 13 years setting up and running a Chambre D'hote. I have lived in St Peter's since 2014 and enjoy an active life in and amongst the local community. I now find myself as Chair of Broadstairs and St Peter's Twinning Association, Treasurer to a local Charitable Care Home support group, A part time medieval entrepreneur and boat builder, part time Santa Claus, and member of the Dickens Declaimers.

Other memberships include The Local Village Tour, Twinning Association, Three local Choirs, Caledonian Society, local Golf Clubs etc. My career was spent as an engineer working for the Nuclear and Defence Industry with Rolls Royce MOD, BNFL, CEGB, NNC. My hobbies have included Fishing, Acting, Gardening, Bonsai, Uk Fencing Coach, Reading, , Cooking, Riding, Sub-Aqua and sailing.

Historically Town Criers date from the Medieval era and were important as the only method of disseminating news to the population once it had been given to them by royal heralds. This included Royal Decrees and Proclamations, Local News, community events, Market Days, Public Events. Emergency Alerts fires, invasions, other law and order events. Their distinctive clothing Tricorn Hat, flamboyant ceremonial coats and staff and bell all helped to draw attention to their cries and announcements. All before newspapers, radio, TV and Phones or internet.

Modern Criers may not be required for spreading news but they hold an important role in local culture and heritage. Modern Roles can include public and Civic events ie. Church Events, Parades, festivals, town meetings local celebrations adding a festive and historical flair. Participation in Charity Events promote local businesses, support tourism initiatives, preserve local history and traditions, share stories about the towns past and present to local people and visitors alike. . Performance Art is a long held tradition with Town Criers and their announcements may include humour, creativity and theatrical elements in their proclamations, adding colour and interest to local events.

In preparing for the above role this year I spent some time as a Town Crier at our local food festival and was amazed at the response from the public loads of photographs taken with visitors including holiday makers from America, South Africa, Japan. All wanting to know more about the town and what I was doing.

I now feel that I would like to move forward in this role and gain the support from our Town Council to enable me to enrol in the Ancient and Honourable Guild of Town Criers representing Broadstairs. I have attached photographs for information.

Regards and best wishes.

Bryan J Jones.

Town Clerk's note

Insurance provided by Guild

Town Sergeant role to be fulfilled also for expenses form Civic or mayoral budget